

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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Public Safety Addresses ‘Non-emergency’ Services *Spells Out Procedures for Requesting Support, Initiates Fee Structure*

MONTGOMERY — Department of Public Safety Director Col. Mike Coppage announced Thursday a new system for requesting DPS support for non-emergency services, including fees to defray departmental costs. Coppage said the department expended more than \$500,000 last year in support of non-emergency local events such as festivals and parades.

“In consideration of Public Safety’s increasing responsibilities associated with Homeland Security, personnel shortages and budget shortfalls, this department no longer can provide non-emergency services free of charge,” Coppage said.

Coppage emphasized the new policy applies only to non-emergency events. “DPS’s support in responding to natural disasters, criminal investigations and other mission-related law enforcement functions will not be affected,” he said.

Under the new policy, local authorities can submit a request to the director’s office for DPS support for non-emergency events at least 30 days prior to the event. The request should include all services requested, including personnel, command posts and aviation support. The request also should indicate the event’s sponsors and if the event is a for-profit venture.

Public Safety then will develop an operations plan based upon the request and available resources. The plan will include a fee for DPS personnel and resources to assist in defraying the department’s costs for supporting non-emergency operations.

Once the requesting agency or event sponsor approves the amount of the fee, the agency will advise the director’s office of its approval and will receive from DPS an invoice outlining costs associated with the event.

“Traditionally, Public Safety has provided assistance to law enforcement agencies throughout the state,” Coppage said. “This assistance has taken a multitude of forms, including personnel and other resources not normally available to local authorities.

“DPS recognizes the value of such support and is eager to continue providing assistance,” said Coppage. “The demands of Public Safety’s mission, however, now require that non-emergency support services be addressed under this new procedure.”

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